

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00579 311637Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /063 W

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P 311600Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1588

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT GAETA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PO

SUBJ: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE"

REF: LISBON 553

1. MEDIA REACTION TO NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE" FOCUSED ON COINCIDENCE IN SCHEDULING NATO EXERCISE AT A TIME WHEN PORTUGUESE POLITICA IN TURMOIL AND REFERRED TO LAST NATO EXERCISE, WHICH ENDED APRIL 25.

2. STATEMENT JAN 30 BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VITOR
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ALVES THAT ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND GOP UNDER NO PRESSURE

TO CANCEL EXERCISE; THAT THE EXERCISE PLANNED "OVER TWO YEARS" AGO AND IS A ROUTINE OCCURRENCE, REPORTED BY ALL MEDIA. ALVES ALSO STRESSED PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO.

3. CITING REUTERS REPORT FROM BRUSSELS AS ITS SOURCE LISBON MORNING DAILY O SECULO HAD REPORTED JAN 31 THAT SHORE LEAVE FOR PERONNEL PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE POSTPONED "TO AVOID DEMONSTRATIONS". SECULO REPORTED, ERRONEOUSLY, THAT SHORE LEAVE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JAN 31. MORNING DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS REPORTED SAME DATE ON NON-AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF EXERCISE AND CARRIED COMIBERLANT'S DENIAL THAT LEAVES HAD BEEN CANCELED. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS ALSO CARRIED REUTER'S DISPATCH FROM EAST BERLIN IN WHICH SECRETARY GENERAL OF WORLD FEDERATION OF COMMUNIST UNIONS IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCUSED NATO OF "HAVING PLANNED MILITARY MANEUVERS ALONG COAST OF PORTUGAL AND OF HAVING MADE THREATS OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES".

4. COMMENT: TONE OF PRESS REPORTING, PARTICULARLY IN AFTERNOON TABLOIDS, IS ANTI-NATO. AT SUGGESION OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VITOR ALVES, IBERLANT IS MAKING STATEMENT FOR TELECAST IN NIGHTLY NEWS SHOW JAN 31 DESCRIBING PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF EXERCISE. ALVES BELIEVES STATEMENT WILL HALP CALM PUBLIC OPINION. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750036-0810
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaacgc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 553
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE"
TAGS: MOPS, PO, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006